

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 11, 2007 has been received and reviewed by the applicant. Claims 1-16 stand rejected and claims 17-22 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 17 –22 will be made the subject of a divisional application.

Claim 1 is hereby amended to distinguish the invention more clearly from the cited prior art. The subject matter of claims 8 and 11 has been added to claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended is requested for the following reasons.

Claims 1, 5 and 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chalmers (US Patent 4379202). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed towards a photovoltaic device provided with a light concentrator. The light concentrator guides incident light through gaps between conductive tracks and onto a photovoltaic conversion layer. More specifically the device comprises a photovoltaic conversion layer formed from photoactive material. A first electrode is arranged on a first surface of the photovoltaic conversion layer. A second electrode comprising the conductive tracks is arranged on the opposite second surface of the photovoltaic conversion layer to receive generated photoelectrons from said photovoltaic conversion layer. The light concentrator is adjacent to the second electrode and the one or more conductive tracks are arranged in registration with said light concentrator such that incident light is guided substantially through gaps between the one or more conductive tracks. The light concentrator comprises a transparent support layer having one or more light concentrating units arranged thereon, the units incorporating diffractive structures.

Chalmers discloses a solar cell having a periodic front surface electrode provided with a transparent cover, chosen and configured to provide refractive discontinuities of the same spatial frequency as and aligned with a conductive grid.

There is no disclosure or suggestion in Chalmers of a light concentrator comprising one or more light concentrating units incorporating diffractive

structures. Chalmers does not therefore anticipate the present invention as claimed in claim 1. Claims 5 and 8-15 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore include all its limitations. Claims 5 and 8-15 are therefore not anticipated by Chalmers. Claims 1,5 and 8-15 of the present invention should therefore be allowed.

Claims 1-3, 5, 9, 13 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Glatfelter (US Patent 5228926). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Glatfelter discloses a photovoltaic cell having a light directing optical element integrally formed in an encapsulant layer. The optical element redirects light to increase the internal absorption of light incident on the device. There is no disclosure or suggestion of a light concentrator comprising one or more light concentrating units incorporating diffractive structures. Glatfelter therefore does not anticipate the present invention as claimed in claim 1. Claims 2-3, 5, 9, 13 and 15-16 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore include all its limitations. Claims 2-3, 5, 9, 13 and 15-16 are therefore not anticipated by Glatfelter. Claims 1-3, 5, 9, 13 and 15-16 of the present invention should therefore be allowed.

Claim 2-3 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chalmers in view of Glatfelter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above neither Chalmers nor Glatfelter disclose all the features of claim 1. Therefore a combination of these documents cannot produce all the features of claim 1. Since claims 2-3 and 16 are dependent on claim 1 they include all the features of claim 1. Therefore a combination cannot disclose or suggest all the features found in 2-3 and 16. Claims 2-3 and 16 of the present invention should therefore be allowed.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chalmers in view of Glatfelter and further in view of Nakamura (US Patent 6291763). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above neither Chalmers nor Glatfelter disclose all the features of claim 1. Claim 4 is dependent on claim 1. Nakamura does not disclose the missing elements of claim 1. Therefore a combination of Chalmers,

Glatfeleter and Nakamura does not disclose nor suggest all the features found in claim 4. Claim 4 should therefore be allowed.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chalmers in view of Nakamura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above neither Chalmers nor Nakamura disclose all the features of claim 1. Claim 6 is dependent on claim 1 and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 1. A combination of Chalmers and Nakamura cannot disclose all the features of claim 6. Claim 6 should therefore be allowed.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chalmers in view of Glatfelter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above neither Chalmers nor Glatfelter disclose all the features of claim 1. Claim 7 is dependent on claim 1 and therefore includes all the features of claim 1. A combination of Chalmers and Glatfelter cannot disclose all the features of claim 7. Claim 7 should therefore be allowed.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glatfelter in view of Nakamura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above neither Glatfelter nor Nakamura disclose all the features of claim 1. Claim 4 is dependent on claim 1 and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 1. A combination of Chalmers and Nakamura cannot disclose all the features of claim 4. Claim 4 should therefore be allowed.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glatfelter in view of Nakamura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above neither Glatfelter nor Nakamura disclose all the features of claim 1. Claim 6 is dependent on claim 1 and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 1. A combination of Chalmers and Nakamura cannot disclose all the features of claim 6. Claim 6 should therefore be allowed.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glatfelter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above Glatfelter does not disclose all the features of claim 1. Claim 7 necessarily includes the features of claim 1. Modifying the apparatus disclosed in Glatfelter by including conductive tracks made of gold or silver does not result in a device as claimed in claim 7. Claim 7 should therefore be allowed.

Claims 8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glatfelter in view of Chalmers. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 10 and 12 are dependent on claim 1. They therefore include all the features found in claim 1. As discussed above neither Chalmers nor Glatfelter disclose all the features of claim 1. Therefore a combination of these documents cannot produce all the features of claim 1. Since claims 10 and 12 are dependent on claim 1 they include all the features of claim 1. Therefore a combination cannot disclose or suggest all the features found in 10 and 12. Claims 10 and 12 of the present invention should therefore be allowed.

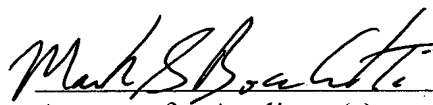
Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glatfelter in view of Chalmers. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above neither Chalmers nor Glatfelter disclose all the features of claim 1. Therefore a combination of these documents cannot produce all the features of claim 1. Since claim 14 is dependent on claim 1 it includes all the features of claim 1. Therefore a combination cannot disclose or suggest all the features found in claim 14. Claim 14 of the present invention should therefore be allowed.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.